

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1 1. (currently amended) A web cam system, comprising:
2 a digital camera for capturing an image of a ~~scene~~user,
3 wherein said digital camera is configured to generate image data,
4 wherein said digital camera is configured to be connected with a computer, and
5 wherein said digital camera is configured to provide said image data to said
6 computer;
7 a computer readable medium encoded with computer executable instructions
8 embodied therein for causing the interfacing of said digital camera with said computer, said
9 computer executable instructions comprising:
10 an image capturing computer readable program code portion configured to
11 cause said computer to effect the capturing of said image, wherein said image comprises
12 still or video images;
13 an internet interfacing computer readable program code portion configured
14 to cause said computer to effect the transmittal of said image data, for incorporation of
15 said image data into a web cam page, to a web site hosting said web cam page; and
16 an interlude switch ~~in proximity with said digital camera~~,
17 wherein said interlude switch is configured to be toggled between a view mode
18 and an interlude mode;
19 wherein said view mode provides live images from said digital camera; and
20 wherein said interlude mode provides at least one alternate image from a source
21 other than a live image captured by said digital camera;
22 wherein said interlude mode is active in the absence of a phone call by a user;
23 wherein, upon detecting the initiation of a phone call by a user, said interlude
24 switch switches to said view mode to provide said live image.

1 2. (original) The web cam system of claim 1 wherein said interlude switch
2 when toggled to said view mode:
3 causes said image capturing computer readable program code portion to drive said
4 digital camera to capture images of a scene; and
5 causes said internet interfacing computer readable program code portion to effect
6 the transmittal of said image data, for incorporation of said image data into said web cam page,
7 to a web site hosting said web cam page.

1 3. (original) The web cam system of claim 1 wherein said interlude switch
2 when toggled to said interlude mode:
3 causes said image capturing computer readable program code portion to stop said
4 digital camera from capturing images of a scene;
5 causes said internet interfacing computer readable program code portion to effect
6 the replacement of said image data with preselected images; and
7 causes said internet interfacing computer readable program code portion to effect
8 the transmittal of said preselected images, for incorporation of said preselected images into said
9 web cam page, to a web site hosting said web cam page, as if said preselected images were
10 captured by said digital camera.

1 4. (original) The web cam system of claim 1 wherein said interlude switch
2 when toggled to said interlude mode:
3 causes said image capturing computer readable program code portion to stop said
4 digital camera from capturing images of a scene; and
5 causes said internet interfacing computer readable program code portion to drive
6 said web site to effect the replacement of said image data with preselected images, as if said
7 preselected images were captured by said digital camera.

1 5-9. (canceled)

1 10. (currently amended) The web cam system of claim ~~3~~ or ~~claim 4~~ 1 wherein
2 said ~~preselected images are~~ alternate image is one of: still images, slide shows, video images,
3 commercials, or images captured by another web cam system.

11. (original) The web cam system of claim 10 wherein said preselected images are stored on said computer.

12. (original) The web cam system of claim 10 wherein said preselected images are stored at a remote site.

13.-17. (canceled)

18. (currently amended) A method of operating a web cam, comprising:
transmitting an interlude image to the Internet;
capturing user images of a ~~scene~~ user using a first digital camera;
generating image data from said images;
~~providing said image data to a computer;~~
~~putting an interlude switch into a view mode;~~
~~transmitting said image data from said computer to a web cam page, wherein said~~
~~view mode provides live images from said digital camera on said web cam page;~~
~~updating said web cam page when said interlude switch is in said view mode;~~
detecting the initiation of a telephone call by said user;
toggling said ~~an~~ interlude switch, in response to said detecting, to toggle said web
~~cam from said view mode into an interlude mode to substitute said user images for said interlude~~
~~image;~~
replacing said images with alternate images when said interlude switch is in said
interlude mode, such that a viewer viewing said web cam page would see at least one alternate
image in place of captured images from said first digital camera, when said web cam is operating
in its interlude mode.

19. (canceled)

20. (canceled)

21. (currently amended) The method of claim 18 wherein said at least one alternate interlude image is a stored still image.

1 22. (currently amended) The method of claim 18 wherein said ~~at least one~~
2 ~~alternate~~ interlude image is a stored video image.

1 23. (currently amended) The method of claim 18 wherein said ~~at least one~~
2 ~~alternate~~ interlude image is an image from a second digital camera.

1 24. (canceled)

1 25. (canceled)

1 26. (currently amended) The web cam system of claim 1 wherein said
2 interlude switch is computer code configured to cause a change in the source of images.

1 27. (previously presented) The web cam system of claim 1 wherein said
2 source other than a live image captured by said digital camera is a second digital camera.

1 28. (canceled)